



News Release

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Tennessee Resolves Dispute with USDOJ over Veterans Homes

The United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) and the State of Tennessee have entered into a settlement agreement designed to conclude the USDOJ's investigation of the care of residents of two Tennessee State Veterans Homes.

The USDOJ has alleged certain violations of the law and of the constitutional rights of residents at the Veterans Homes in Humboldt and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The State of Tennessee disagrees with these findings. However, both USDOJ and the State of Tennessee agree it is in the best interest of the residents at the Tennessee State Veterans Homes that the investigation be resolved quickly and amicably. Pursuant to the settlement agreement, USDOJ's involvement will conclude within the next 18 months if the State remains in compliance with its terms.

"The State of Tennessee has always been and remains committed to providing the best possible care to the veterans we serve, particularly at our Veterans Homes," said Polly Darnall, executive director of the Tennessee State Veterans Homes. "Our State has made significant improvements in care at these facilities. We will continue to improve care at the Veterans Homes now and in the future when USDOJ involvement ceases."

It is the State's position that the Tennessee State Veteran's Homes new executive director along with the assistance of consultants hired by the State and certain key staff, have significantly improved conditions at the homes. The agreement includes the issues of greatest concern to the United States, specifically nutrition and hydration care, use of psychotropic medications, pain management, and fall prevention. The State, which had begun addressing these issues prior to USDOJ involvement, agreed to continue to address and correct all of the alleged violations.